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Consumer Price Index, Riverside Area – November 2020

Area prices were up 0.4 percent over the past two months, up 1.9 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Riverside area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.4 percent for the two months ending in November 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the November increase was influenced by higher prices for electricity and new and used motor vehicles. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 1.9 percent. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.3 percent over the year. Food prices rose 7.4 percent. Energy prices decreased 8.9 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. (See [table 1.](#))

Food

Food prices edged up 0.2 percent for the two months ending in November. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food away from home rose 0.4 percent. During the same period, prices for food at home inched down 0.1 percent, influenced by lower prices for cereals and bakery products (-3.5 percent).

Over the year, food prices rose 7.4 percent. Prices for food at home rose 9.2 percent since a year ago, led by higher prices for fruits and vegetables (18.6 percent), and prices for food away from home rose 5.3 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 1.3 percent for the two months ending in November. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for electricity (9.5 percent). Prices for natural gas service declined 4.9 percent, and prices for gasoline decreased 2.6 percent for the same period.

Energy prices decreased 8.9 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-22.2 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service jumped 21.8 percent, and prices for electricity rose 14.7 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.3 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for new and used motor vehicles (3.3 percent), recreation (2.8 percent), and shelter (0.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-11.3 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-1.0 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.3 percent. Components contributing to the increase included medical care (4.4 percent), education and communication (3.8 percent), and shelter (2.3 percent).

The January 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Riverside area is scheduled to be released on February 10, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on November 2020 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in November was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at <https://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm>.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measures of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA metropolitan area includes Riverside and San Bernardino Counties in California.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario (December 2017=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Nov. 2019	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items	108.201	-	108.626	1.9	0.4	-
Food and beverages	111.604	-	111.702	7.4	0.1	-
Food	111.837	-	112.011	7.4	0.2	-
Food at home	110.843	110.776	110.756	9.2	-0.1	0.0
Cereals and bakery products	115.704	-	111.660	6.6	-3.5	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	106.071	-	108.492	8.4	2.3	-
Dairy and related products	107.647	-	106.197	0.9	-1.3	-
Fruits and vegetables	117.177	-	119.733	18.6	2.2	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials	115.327	-	111.989	4.0	-2.9	-
Other food at home	107.789	-	107.674	11.2	-0.1	-
Food away from home	112.461	-	112.942	5.3	0.4	-
Alcoholic beverages	107.944	-	106.567	8.4	-1.3	-
Housing	110.550	-	111.284	3.3	0.7	-
Shelter	110.781	111.165	111.167	2.3	0.3	0.0
Rent of primary residence	111.753	111.938	111.942	2.9	0.2	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences	110.999	111.474	111.476	2.3	0.4	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence	110.999	111.474	111.476	2.3	0.4	0.0
Fuels and utilities	115.300	-	120.042	11.6	4.1	-
Household energy	114.046	122.612	121.251	16.2	6.3	-1.1
Energy services	114.298	123.006	121.575	16.4	6.4	-1.2
Electricity	110.345	120.835	120.854	14.7	9.5	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service	129.837	131.015	123.532	21.8	-4.9	-5.7
Household furnishings and operations	101.934	-	100.924	2.8	-1.0	-
Apparel	107.097	-	95.030	5.6	-11.3	-
Transportation	100.858	-	101.899	-8.6	1.0	-
Private transportation	102.148	-	102.962	-8.0	0.8	-
New and used motor vehicles	96.256	-	99.440	-0.7	3.3	-
New vehicles	101.424	-	103.167	1.6	1.7	-
Used cars and trucks	110.518	-	110.233	9.9	-0.3	-
Motor fuel	103.754	102.248	101.159	-22.2	-2.5	-1.1
Gasoline (all types)	104.005	102.484	101.343	-22.2	-2.6	-1.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular(1)	103.940	102.426	101.159	-22.5	-2.7	-1.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(1)	105.862	104.720	104.612	-19.6	-1.2	-0.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(1)	103.953	102.334	101.678	-21.2	-2.2	-0.6
Motor vehicle insurance	116.349	-	116.013	4.8	-0.3	-
Medical care	109.610	-	109.482	4.4	-0.1	-
Recreation	102.647	-	105.481	3.7	2.8	-
Education and communication	106.771	-	108.483	3.8	1.6	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care	119.179	-	119.282	4.1	0.1	-
Other goods and services	109.131	-	109.019	2.5	-0.1	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	108.201	-	108.626	1.9	0.4	-
Commodities	106.268	-	105.460	0.5	-0.8	-
Commodities less food & beverages	103.104	-	101.765	-3.6	-1.3	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	102.736	-	98.740	-9.0	-3.9	-
Durables	102.981	-	104.478	3.2	1.5	-
Services	109.428	-	110.576	2.8	1.0	-
Special aggregate indexes						

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario (December 2017=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Nov. 2019	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020
All items less medical care	108.105	-	108.568	1.8	0.4	-
All items less shelter.....	106.776	-	107.224	1.7	0.4	-
Commodities less food	103.201	-	101.862	-3.2	-1.3	-
Nondurables	107.446	-	105.624	-0.4	-1.7	-
Nondurables less food.....	102.968	-	99.112	-8.1	-3.7	-
Services less rent of shelter	107.468	-	109.723	3.4	2.1	-
Services less medical care services.....	109.092	-	110.376	2.5	1.2	-
Energy	108.499	111.122	109.916	-8.9	1.3	-1.1
All items less energy	108.151	-	108.490	3.0	0.3	-
All items less food and energy	107.584	-	107.950	2.3	0.3	-

Footnotes

(1) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

- Data not available

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.